President.—How is it, Mr. Koder ?

Mr. S. S. Koder.—The explanation is given.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—As a rule it is not possible to keep up this time in all weathers and in all times, as some times we have only very low water, and we have to take a circuitous route.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—So that it takes sometimes 25 minutes, sometimes 35.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—Very often we land at the Huzur Jetty.

391. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of days in Thulam 1104 on which boats plied the prescribed number of times;

(b) the rate charged by the steam and motor boat owners for a passenger for his journey from Ernakulam and Alleppey and what is the distance between the two places;

(c) the distance between Ernakulam and Mattancheri and the rates charged by the ferry contractors;

(d) what is the reason for this abnormal difference;

(e) whether tenders were called for for taking up the ferry service; if so, the names of the tenderers with their rates;

(f) were there any offers to pay the same rentals to Government and at the same time charge the passengers at a much lower rate; if so, the names of the offerers with their rates?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(a) Five.

(b) The rate is shown below—

1st class	Rs.	1—0—0
2nd class	,,	0—10—0
3rd class	,,	0—4—0

The distances is known to be 42 miles.

(c) 2½ miles (approximate)

1st class	Rs.	0—3—0
2nd class	,,	0—2—0
3rd class	,,	0—1—0

(d) The conditions are not similar in these two cases. Rules cannot be fixed with reference to distance alone.

(e) (1) Messrs. Abraham B. Salem and V. J. Pompazhi. Rs. 12,500 per annum.

(2) The Ferry and Transport Services, Ltd., Rs. 12,501 per annum.

(f) No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—In Thulam, they have run only for 5 days according to the agreement. For the rest of 25 days they have not run boats according to the

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agreement. I want to know whether Government have taken any action for this default.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Thulam is a monsoon month. Probably that is the reason.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Without notice it is not possible to answer.

President.—Is there not a register to show why they have not run the usual number of times ?

Mr. S. S. Koder.—If there is a squll kraal and all that boats will not run.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then they ought to be fined Rs. 20 a day. That is the agreement.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—It is beyond human capacity.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I think the Member is not correct. The question is dated 13th of Thulam because in the previous question I find that date. It may be five days out of the remaining 16 days.

President.—The water will be low and it is the monsoon time.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—I know we always run according to the time and sometimes we run more.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is also possible that these 5 days are from the 1st to the 13th of Thulam.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—If the dredger is working inside the Harbour there may be obstruction.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—This was entrusted to one who did not tender and he is a defaulter. I want to know the reasons.

President.—Two persons tendered.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Why the contract was given to one who did not tender ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—There is the Ferry and Transport Services, Ltd. How do you exclude them from the list of tenderers ?

President.—Where is the answer for the question 'whether tenders were called for ? ' But when we say that there were tenderers it means that tenders were called for.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know whether the Transport Services tendered all this for Rs. 12,501 ?

President.—No, they did not tender.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then what was the tender ?

President.—Rs. 12,000 originally. Afterwards it was raised, and that is how this amount was arrived at.

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know the difference between Ernakulam and Alleppey and Ernakulam and Cochin? For 42 miles 4 annas and for 2 miles 1 anna.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—But that is not under Government. But they are run by private companies, and if there is competition, they may raise it to Rs. 2. There is nothing to control them. Here we run on fixed rates.

President.—The answer should be like that.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Thus, conditions are different.

President.—We are not responsible for the rates fixed by them

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—They have nothing to pay to anybody. Here the contractor has to pay to the Government.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Have you nothing to do with the fixing of rates of the other companies?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—No. These rates came into existence long before these private agencies began to run their boats.

Mal-treatment of certain muslims by the Police.

392. **Mr. K Mohamed Seethi.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are in receipt of petitions from some Muslims of Ernakulam and Panangad complaining of mal-treatment by a posse of Policemen under the Inspector of the Cusba Police Station, Ernakulam, and unlawful custody;

(b) will the Government kindly say what the allegations and the prayers in the petitions were;

(c) will the Government be pleased to state what action was taken on those petitions in view of the grave allegations made therein;

(d) if any action was taken on them, will the Government kindly say when it was;

(e) will the Government kindly state the upshot of the investigation, if any, made by them;

(f) will the Government be pleased to state whether the alleged victims of the Police outrage were subsequently charge-sheeted by the Ernakulam Cusba Police;

(g) if the answer to (f) is in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state when the Police laid the charge?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) The allegations were that they were unlawfully arrested and detained.

(c) The petitions were kept pending enquiry as the matter

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